

MEMO

DATE: 14 February 2006
TO: CEHD
FROM: Brian Wallace, Associate Regional Planner
SUBJECT: Intergovernmental Review

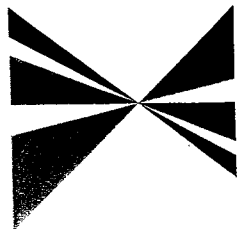
SUMMARY:

The attached letter is SCAG's formal comments on the Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the KernCOG RTP update. A product of a collaborative review process within the Planning and Programming Department at SCAG, the letter spells out expectations and interests that our two regions should consider collectively.

BACKGROUND:

At the January CEHD meeting, staff agreed to update the committee more regularly of significant projects either within or that affect the SCAG region. We will continue to bring the committee updates as this and other projects come to our attention so that committee members are better informed about such projects and efforts.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



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Riverside County Transportation Commission:
Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission:
Keith Millhouse, Moorpark

12 January 2006

Mr. Ronald Brummett
Executive Director
Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, CA 93301

RE: **SCAG Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact
Report for the 2006 revision of the Destination 2030 Regional Transportation
Plan
SCAG No. I 20050801**

Dear Mr. Brummett:

Thank you for submitting the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the above-mentioned plan to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) for review and comment. SCAG's responsibility as the region's clearinghouse per Executive Order 12372 includes the implementation of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15125 [d]. This legislation requires the review of local plans, projects and programs for consistency with regional plans.

SCAG appreciates the opportunity to comment on Kern CoG's Regional Transportation Plan and, as an adjacent region with similar interests and concerns, offers the following comments:

Water Resources

1. The proposed Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should encourage "watershed management" programs and strategies. Programs and strategies should include the investigation of watershed management opportunities that maximize capture of local rainfall with all of the proposed transit projects, eliminate incremental increase inflows to the storm drain systems, and provided filtering of flows to capture contaminants.
2. Additionally, and consistent with SCAG policies, the document should introduce mitigation measures that support the protection of vital resources such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, production lands, and land containing unique and endangered plants and animals.

Solid and Hazardous Waste

1. The California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991, as amended, requires each development project to provide an adequate storage area for collection and removal of recyclable materials. The environmental document should include and discuss standards to provide adequate recyclable storage areas for the collection and/or storage of recyclable materials from future transit projects.
2. In addition, the document shall introduce mitigation measures that encourage local jurisdictions to continue to adopt programs to comply with state solid waste diversion rate mandates and, where possible, encourage further recycling.

DOCS # 117865v1

Transportation and Land Use

1. Similar to and consistent with SCAG's Compass Growth Vision, please explain how the Kern RTP will incorporate any alternative growth pattern scenarios that meet economic, quality of life and growth goals with minimal transportation and environmental impacts.
2. Please evaluate and discuss plans for travel corridors to/from SCAG region (especially Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties) including but not limited to: I-5, SR-14, SR-58, US-395 for people and goods movement.
3. Please evaluate and discuss plans for all public transportation corridors to/from SCAG region including bus, commuter rail and high speed rail.
4. Consistent with the 2004 SCAG RTP, please consider Palmdale Airport improvements as part of any aviation system plan.
5. Please address any relevant multi-regional issues found in SCAG's Goods Movement Action Plan.

SCAG looks forward to following the progress of this significant plan update in Southern California. Further information on relevant SCAG plans and policies can be found at www.scag.ca.gov. Please provide a minimum of 45 days for SCAG to review the EIR when this document is available. If you have any questions regarding the included comments, please contact me at (213) 236-1851. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Brian Wallace
Associate Regional Planner
Intergovernmental Review